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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/695,868	10/26/2000	Akira Higeta	684.3101	3187
5514	7590	08/24/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO			GRAINGER, QUANA MASHELL	
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10112			PAPER NUMBER	

2852

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/695,868

Applicant(s)

HIGETA ET AL.

Examiner

Quana M. Grainger

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-27 recites that in the mounting steps that the member to be mounted may be mounted on the separated container or another container. Support for these new limitations are not found in the specification. Please clarify.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara et al. in view of Nagashima in view of Kanda.

Uehara et al. teaches a process cartridge having a developing roller; a developing blade and an elastic member at a position spaced from a toner accommodating portion to a longitudinally inside portion of an end seal provided adjacent each of opposite longitudinal ends of the developing roller. Uehara et al. does not discuss the claimed method of remanufacturing.

Nagashima teaches a remanufacturing method of remanufacturing a process cartridge comprising: (a) a step of preparing a used process cartridge which comprises a toner developing container, a cleaning container and pins for coupling the toner developing container and the cleaning container at opposite longitudinal ends of the process cartridge; the toner developing container including a toner accommodating portion, a toner supply opening, a developing roller and a developing blade; the cleaning container including an electrophotographic photosensitive drum; (b) a container separating step of separating the process cartridge into the toner developing container and the cleaning container by disengaging the pins from the process cartridge; (c) a developing roller dismounting step of dismounting the developing roller from the toner developing container separated by said container separating step; (d) a developing blade dismounting step of dismounting the developing blade from the toner developing container separated by said container separating step; (e) an elastic member mounting step of mounting an elastic member; (f) a developing blade mounting step of mounting the developing blade dismounted in said developing blade dismounting step or another developing blade on the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or another toner developing container; (g) a developing roller mounting step of mounting the developing roller dismounted in developing roller dismounting step or another developing roller on the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step and

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separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step; (h) a toner refilling step of refilling the toner into the toner accommodating portion of the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in said developing roller mounting step and being separated in said container separating step or a toner accommodating portion of the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in said developing roller mounting step; and (i) a container coupling step of coupling the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in said developing roller mounting step and being separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in said developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in said developing roller mounting step with the cleaning container separated in said container separating step or another cleaning container by engaging the pins disengaged in said container separating step or other pills into them (column 9, line 9- column 10, line 7).

Kanda teaches reusing an image forming component such as a toner carrying roller in a different cartridge for the one in which it is contained.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of Nagashima with the process cartridge of Uehara et al. to obtain a remanufacturing process in which the sealing member is easily mountable (column 1, lines 37-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to use the teaching of Kanda with the process cartridge of Uehara et al. to obtain a remanufacturable component from a non-remanufacturable cartridge.

Uehara et al. in view of Nagashima in view of Kanda suggests a flexible sheet mounting step of mounting after said elastic member mounting step and, before said toner refilling step, a flexible sheet to the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container so as to extend along the longitudinal direction of the developing roller when the developing roller is mounted to the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container (column 10, lines 23-51). In said flexible sheet mounting step, each of longitudinal ends of the flexible sheet extends over a surface of the elastic member and a part of the end seal. The method further comprising a first and second side seal mounting step of mounting, after said flexible sheet mounting step, a first side seal continuously on a longitudinal end of the flexible sheet mounted on the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container and on the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container, and a second side seal continuously on the other longitudinal end of the flexible sheet mounted on the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or the another toner developing container and on the toner developing container separated in said container separating step or another toner developing container (column 10, line 15 - column 12, line 44).

Response to Arguments

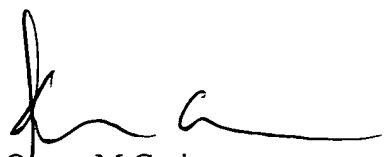
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quana M. Grainger whose telephone number is 571-272-2135. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Quana M Grainger
Primary Examiner
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QG